



# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Buffalo County



### **County characteristics**

- 725 sq. mi.
- farmland and woodland of the ridges and coulees of the Driftless Area
- Waters: Chippewa River on the west, 42 miles of the Mississippi River on the south
- There are 14,000 residents living in Buffalo County
- 9800 acres of federal land on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
- 21 classified trout streams constituting 90 miles of trout water

### **State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing**

- 14,300 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas and Merrick State Park
- 13,500 acres open to hunting

Locate DNR properties at: [http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_lands\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html)



### **Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you**

- DNR Service Centers supporting Buffalo Co:
- Eau Claire 1300 W Clairemont Ave 54701
- LaCrosse 3550 Morman Coulee Rd 54601
- 1 Wildlife Biologist, 1 Wildlife

Technician; 1 Fisheries Biologist, 1 Fisheries Technician; 1 Conservation Warden; Alma Field Station, 407 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Alma, 1 Mississippi River biologist and 1 Fisheries Technician.

- 7 ALIS License vendors located in Buffalo County

### **Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars**

- Establish and maintain grassland, forest land and wetland habitat for ducks, turkeys, deer and other wildlife species.
- Preserve and restore original prairie remnants on public and private lands.
- Wardens apprehended "thrill killers" in 2004 responsible for killing more than a dozen deer in one night including 2 albino bucks. Local warden works on fishing and hunting activity over more than 30 miles of the Mississippi River including 3 lock and dams. Buffalo County is well known for trophy bucks which create some enforcement issues involving illegal baiting and conflicts between hunters.
- Control exotic and invasive species such as purple loosestrife, buckthorn, wild parsnip, spotted knapweed, honeysuckle, and boxelder to assure quality native habitat.

- Manage DNR land by posting wildlife areas and access sites, as well as building and maintaining access roads, parking areas, trails and boat launching sites.
- Monitor local wildlife populations of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, turkeys, frogs, eagles, and osprey.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD, distemper, bacterial brain infection and West Nile Virus.
- Evaluate proposed projects for environmental impacts, work to keep habitats intact and functioning for fish and wildlife.
- Provide educational programs for schools, conservation organizations and civic groups.
- On the Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin, continue to add at least 400 restored acres per year to the 7,100 completed since 1989.
- Continue to work with federal agencies to leverage over \$500,000/year for Mississippi River habitat work using \$38,000/year of state money.

### ***Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary***

- 2 lakes stocked with 800 domestic brown trout from Co-op fish ponds and 2,600 domestic rainbow trout from DNR hatcheries
- 11 streams stocked with trout, 2,100 wild brook trout and 350 domestic brown trout from DNR hatcheries
- 2,000 wild brook trout and 1,700 domestic brown trout from Co-op fish ponds
- No pheasants are stocked in the county and no clubs participate in the Day-old-Chick Program

### ***County Success Stories***

- Increased fish and wildlife numbers and improved habitat conditions through Mississippi River Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects on Pool 4 (Indian Slough/Big Lake) and Pool 5 (Spring Lake) scheduled for completion during 2005.

### ***Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities***

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

***Want to Learn More? Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)***

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